

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b)**

A drift reduction method and apparatus. Drift reduction is effected in an MPEG video transcoder by decoding dropped out pixels to form a drift reference frame. The quantization indices in the current macro-block are changed accordingly in a drift reduction process. The compensated quantized frame is then variable length coded to an MPEG bitstream.

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